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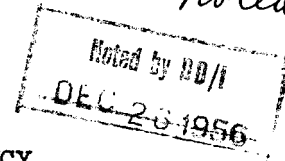


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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

8-9143

*Noted by
DDC I*



MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Soviet Aircraft Shipments to Syria

1. This memorandum relates to our recent discussion of the above subject and summarizes USAF conclusions and the manner in which they were reached.
2. The master of a U.S. vessel in Latakia harbor reported counting approximately 80 crates of varying sizes on the deck of the "Voroshilov"; he also referred to the "largest" crates in the group and said there were approximately ten of these. His description of these boxes, particularly the "arched tops", resembles that of fighter aircraft crates seen elsewhere. Other evidence of which you are aware had previously led to an estimate that as many as twelve Fresco MIG-17's might be part of the "Voroshilov" cargo.
3. Soviet shipments of crated fighters into East Germany have often been observed. The standard packaging was this: one large crate contained fuselage, engine, and disassembled wing and tail surfaces for one aircraft; one smaller crate contained accessories, tools, and certain spare parts for that aircraft; and for each three large crates there was one additional smaller crate which contained other spare parts and tools for which consumption rates are lower. We would expect that some additional crates of spare parts and perhaps spare engines would have been provided to Syria in this shipment because of the longer logistics pipeline; even so, only about half of the total of 80 crates can be accounted for as probably relating to aircraft.
4. Based on all available evidence, then, we concluded that probably ten Fresco MIG-17's were received by the Syrians on 13 December. There might conceivably have been a few small liaison aircraft or small helicopters included in the shipment. We note, however, very recent evidence pointing to the possibility that the crated deck cargo observed may have included certain infantry weapons in undeterminable amounts.

Millard Lewis

MILLARD LEWIS
Major General, USAF
Director of Intelligence

USAF review(s) completed.

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354